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UNIVERSAL CALCULATION METHOD APPLIED TO POINTS ON
AN ELLIPTIC CURVE DEFINED BY A QUARTIC, AND ASSOCIATED
CRYPTOGRAPHIC METHOD AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENT

5 The present invention concerns a universal
calculation method applied to points on an elliptic
curve, and an electronic component comprising means of
implementing such a method. The invention is in
particular applicable for the implementation of
10 cryptographic algorithms of the public key type, for
example in smart cards.

Public key algorithms on an elliptic curve allow
cryptographic applications of the ciphering, digital
15 signature, authentication, etc. type.

They are in particular much used in applications
of the smart card type, since they make it possible to
use keys of short length, permitting fairly short

processing times, and they may not require the use of cryptoprocessors for their implementation, which reduces the production cost of the electronic components in which they are implemented.

5

Before going further, a few reminders about elliptic curves should be given first of all.

10 The points on an elliptic curve are defined over a field \mathcal{K} and form an Abelian group $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{K})$, in which the group operation is the addition of points denoted $+$, and where a neutral element denoted O is distinguished.

15 For a finite field, the cardinal of $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{K})$ is finite. There therefore exists for any point P an integer m such that:

$$O = m.P = P + P + \dots + P, \text{ } m \text{ times}$$

20

and such that, for any integer $k < m$, $k.P \neq O$. Such an integer m is referred to as the order of P . In this case, m divides the cardinal of $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{K})$.

25 Certain curves have particular properties. For example, an elliptic curve having a point of order two has a cardinal divisible by 2. Or, an elliptic curve having a point of order three is a curve such that the cardinal of the group $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{K})$ is divisible by 3. Curves

having the same particular property are grouped together in the same family.

5 A point on an elliptic curve can be represented by several types of coordinate, for example by affine coordinates or Jacobi projective coordinates.

10 Various models exist for defining an elliptic curve applicable in cryptography. A commonly used model is the so-called Weierstrass model. The Weierstrass model is very general since any elliptic curve can come under this model.

15 Each model can be used by means of the different types of coordinate.

20 For example, in affine coordinates and where the characteristic p of the field \mathcal{K} is different from 2 and 3, the Weierstrass model is defined as follows: the neutral point O (the point at infinity in the Weierstrass model) and the set of points $(X, Y) \in \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{K}$ satisfying the equation:

$$E/\mathcal{K} : Y^2 = X^3 + aX + b$$

25 (F1)

with $a, b \in \mathcal{K}$ such that $4a^3 + 27b^2 \neq 0$, form the group of rational points on an elliptic curve $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{K})$. The point P can also be represented by Jacobi projective

coordinates of the general form (U, V, W) . (X, Y) and (U, V, W) are linked by the following equations:

$$X = U/W \quad \text{and} \quad Y = V/W^2$$

5 (F2)

With these Jacobi projective coordinates, the Weierstrass equation of an elliptic curve becomes:

$$E/\mathcal{K} : V^2 = U^3 + a*UW^4 + b*W^6$$

10 (F3)

Projective coordinates are in particular advantageous in exponentiation calculations applied to points on an elliptic curve, since they do not comprise any inversion calculations in the field.

15

As shown by the formula F2, one and the same point has several possible representations in Jacobi projective coordinates. Also, the following equivalence relationship is defined over $\mathcal{K}^3 \setminus \{(0, 0, 0)\}$: two elements, with coordinates (U, V, W) and (U', V', W') , are referred to as equivalent and belong to the same equivalence class if and only if there exists a non-null element λ of \mathcal{K} such that

20

25

$$(U', V', W') = (\lambda U, \lambda^2 V, \lambda W)$$

(F4)

The coordinates of an element of this class are denoted $(U : V : W)$.

5 According to the model which defines the elliptic curve and according to the coordinates used for working, different formulae for addition, subtraction and doubling of points are applicable. In the case of the Weierstrass model, such formulae are known and
10 given by the well-known secant and tangent rule.

 In the example of an elliptic curve E given by a Weierstrass model in affine coordinates over a field with characteristic different from 2 and 3, the
15 simplest formulae for addition, subtraction and doubling of points are as follows.

 The inverse of a point $P_1 = (X_1, Y_1)$ on the curve E is the point $-P_1 = (X_1, \bar{Y}_1)$ with
20

$$\bar{Y}_1 = -Y_1$$

(F5)

 The operation of addition of points P_1 with coordinates (X_1, Y_1) and P_2 with coordinates (X_2, Y_2)
25 on this curve, with $P_1 \neq -P_2$, gives the point $P_3 = P_1 + P_2$ whose coordinates (X_3, Y_3) are such that:

$$X_3 = \lambda^2 - X_1 - X_2$$

30 (F6)

$$Y_3 = \lambda \times (X_1 - X_3) - Y_1,$$

(F7)

5 with

$$\lambda = (Y_1 - Y_2) / (X_1 - X_2), \text{ if } P_1 \neq P_2$$

(F8)

10 $\lambda = (3 \times X_1^2 + a) / (2 \times Y_1), \text{ if } P_1 = P_2$

(F9)

15 The formula F8 is used for adding two distinct points ($P_3 = P_1 + P_2$) whilst the formula F9 is used for a point doubling operation ($P_3 = 2 \times P_1$).

20 The formulae F6 to F9 are not valid when P_1 and/or P_2 is equal to the neutral point O . Most often, in practice, an operation of the type $P_3 = P_1 + O$ is not carried out. More simply, before an addition operation of the type $P_3 = P_1 + P_2$ is carried out, it is tested whether at least one of the points is equal to the neutral O . The operation $P_3 = P_1$ is then carried out if $P_1 = O$ or the operation $P_3 = P_2$ is carried out if $P_2 = O$.

25

 The operations of addition or subtraction, or doubling of a point, and the operation of addition of the neutral are the basic operations used in scalar

multiplication algorithms on elliptic curves: given a point P_1 belonging to an elliptic curve E and d a predetermined number (an integer), the result of the scalar multiplication of the point P_1 by the number d is a point P_2 on the curve E such that $P_2 = d \times P_1 = P_1 + P_1 + \dots + P_1$, d times. It should be noted that, if P_1 is of order n , then $n \times P_1 = O$, $(n+1) \times P_1 = P_1 + O = P_1$, etc., O being the neutral point.

Public key cryptographic algorithms on an elliptic curve are based on the scalar multiplication of a selected point P_1 on the curve by a predetermined number d , a secret key. The result of this scalar multiplication $d \times P_1$ is a point P_2 on the elliptic curve. In an example of application to ciphering according to the El Gamal method, the point P_2 obtained is the public key which is used for the ciphering of a message.

The calculation of the scalar multiplication $P_2 = d \times P_1$ can be carried out by various algorithms. A few of them can be cited, such as the double and add algorithm based on the binary representation of the multiplier d , the so-called "addition/subtraction" algorithm based on the signed binary representation of the multiplier d , the window algorithm, etc.

All these algorithms use the formulae for addition, subtraction, doubling and addition of the neutral defined on elliptic curves.

5 However, these algorithms prove to be sensitive to attacks aiming to discover in particular the value of the secret key d . There can be cited in particular the simple or differential covert channel attacks.

10 Simple or differential covert channel attack means an attack based on a physical quantity measurable from outside the device, and whose direct analysis (simple attack) or analysis according to a statistical method (differential attack) makes it possible to
15 discover information contained and manipulated in processing in the device. These attacks can thus make it possible to discover confidential information. These attacks have in particular been disclosed in D1 (Paul Kocher, Joshua Jaffe and Benjamin Jun. Differential
20 Power Analysis. Advances in Cryptology - CRYPTO'99, vol. 1666 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science, pp. 388-397. Springer-Verlag, 1999). Amongst the physical quantities which can be exploited for these purposes, there can be cited the execution time, the current
25 consumption, the electromagnetic field radiated by the part of the component used for executing the calculation, etc. These attacks are based on the fact that the manipulation of a bit, that is to say its processing by a particular instruction, has a
30 particular impression on the physical quantity in

question according to the value of this bit and/or according to the instruction.

In the cryptographic systems based on elliptic curves, these attacks aim to identify an operation (for example an addition of points of the type $P_3 = P_1 + P_2$, an addition of the type $P_3 = P_1 + O$, or a scalar multiplication of the type $P_3 = d \cdot P_1$) in a set of operations carried out successively.

If the example of a scalar multiplication algorithm on elliptic curves with the Weierstrass model is taken, this algorithm may be sensitive to simple covert channel attacks, since the basic operations of doubling of points, addition of points or addition of the neutral point are substantially different as shown by the calculation of λ in the formulae F8 and F9 above.

It is therefore necessary to provide countermeasure methods making it possible to prevent the various attacks from prospering. In other words, it is necessary to make the scalar multiplication algorithms secure.

For this, from D2 (Eric Brier and Marc Joye. Weierstrass elliptic curves and side-channel attacks. In D. Naccache, editor, Public Key Cryptography, volume 2274 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science, pages 335-

345. Springer-Verlag, 2002), a single formulation for a doubling of points operation and an addition of points operation is known. Thus, the two operations can no longer be differentiated by a covert channel attack.
5 This formulation however has the drawback of not being valid for carrying out an operation of addition of the neutral point.

From D3 (Pierre-Yvan Liardet and Nigel P. Smart. Preventing SPA/DPA in ECC systems using the Jacobi form. In C.K.Koç, D. Naccache, and C. Paar, editors, Cryptographic Hardware and Embedded Systems - CHES 2001, volume 2162 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science, pages 391-401. Springer-Verlag, 2001), a single
15 formulation for an addition operation and a doubling of points operation is also known. This formulation however is applicable only within the context of an elliptic curve having three points of order 2. Moreover, the formulation proposed in D3 requires
20 considerable memory space in order to be implemented since the points are stored with four coordinates. This is not easily compatible with a smart card type application.

25 From D4 (Marc Joye and Jean-Jacques Quisquater. Hessian elliptic curves and side-channel attacks. In C.K.Koç, D. Naccache, and C. Paar, editors, Cryptographic Hardware and Embedded Systems - CHES 2001, volume 2162 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science, pages 402-410. Springer-Verlag, 2001), a single
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formulation for an addition operation and a doubling of points operation is also known. However, this formulation is applicable solely to elliptic curves having a point of order three.

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D3 and D4 do not mention the problem of addition of the neutral.

10

One aim of the invention is to propose a solution for protection against covert channel attacks, in particular SPA attacks, which is more efficient than the solutions already known.

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Another aim of the invention is to propose a solution which can be implemented in a circuit having not much memory space available, with a view for example to a smart card type application.

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These objectives are achieved in the invention by a single formulation making it possible to carry out an addition of two distinct points, a doubling of points, and an operation of addition of the neutral. The said formulation according to the invention is moreover

25

minimal: thus the number of operations to be performed and the memory space necessary for its implementation are limited.

Thus, the invention concerns a method of universal calculation on points on an elliptic curve. According to the invention, the elliptic curve is defined by a quartic equation and identical programmed calculation means are used to carry out an operation of addition of points, an operation of doubling of points, and an operation of addition of a neutral point, the calculation means comprising in particular a central processing unit associated with a memory.

In other words, according to the invention, the use of a model of the elliptic curve in the form of a quartic (that is to say a 4th degree polynomial) makes it possible to use a single formulation for carrying out operations of addition of points, point doubling and addition of the neutral point of the curve.

It then becomes impossible to distinguish one of these operations from the others by an attack such as a covert channel attack.

Furthermore, the use of a model of the curve in quartic form makes it possible to represent a point by means of only 3 projective coordinates, which limits the memory space necessary for storing the coordinates of a point and reduces the calculation times during operations on points.

Finally, as will be seen more clearly in examples, the single formulation obtained according to

the invention for carrying out three types of addition (addition of two distinct points, doubling of points and addition of the neutral) uses a limited number of elementary operations of multiplication type, which
5 further limits the calculation times and memory space necessary.

The invention also concerns the use of a
10 universal calculation method as described above, in a scalar multiplication calculation method applied to points on an elliptic curve, and/or in a cryptographic method.

The invention also concerns an electronic
15 component comprising programmed calculation means for implementing a universal calculation method as described above or a cryptographic method using the above universal calculation method. The calculation
20 means comprise in particular a central processing unit associated with a memory.

Finally, the invention also concerns a smart card
25 comprising the above electronic component.

The invention and the advantages ensuing
therefrom will emerge more clearly from a reading of
the following description of particular example
30 embodiments of the invention, given on a purely

indicative basis and with reference to the single accompanying figure. This depicts in block diagram form an electronic device 1 capable of carrying out cryptographic calculations.

5

In the following examples, the device 1 is a smart card intended to execute a cryptographic program. To that end, the device 1 combines, in a chip, programmed calculation means, consisting of a central
10 processing unit 2 functionally connected to a set of memories including:

- a memory 4 accessible in read mode only, in the example of the mask ROM (mask read-only memory) type;

15

- an electrically re-programmable memory 6, in the example of the EEPROM (electrically erasable programmable ROM) type; and

20

- a working memory 8 accessible in read mode and write mode, in the example of the RAM (random access memory) type. This memory comprises in particular calculation registers used by the device 1.

25

The executable code corresponding to the scalar multiplication algorithm is contained in program memory. This code can in practice be contained in memory 4, accessible in read mode only, and/or in rewritable memory 6.

30

The central processing unit 2 is connected to a communication interface 10 which provides the exchange of signals with regard to the outside and the power supply for the chip. This interface can comprise pads
5 on the card for a so-called "contact" connection with a reader, and/or an antenna in the case of a so-called "contactless" card.

One of the functions of the device 1 is to cipher
10 or decipher a confidential message m respectively transmitted to, or received from, the outside. This message may concern for example personal codes, medical information, accounting on banking or commercial transactions, authorisations for access to certain
15 restricted services, etc. Another function is to calculate or verify a digital signature.

In order to carry out these functions, the central processing unit 2 executes a cryptographic
20 algorithm on programming data which are stored in the mask ROM 4 and/or EEPROM 6 parts.

The algorithm used here is a public key algorithm on an elliptic curve within the context of a model in
25 the form of a quartic. The concern here will more precisely be with a part of this algorithm, which makes it possible to carry out basic operations, that is to say addition operations: addition of two distinct points, of two identical points (that is to say an

operation of doubling of a point), or of any point whatsoever and the neutral point.

5 It should be noted that, according to the invention, these three operations are carried out using the same formulation and are therefore not distinguishable from one another from the outside for a simple covert channel attack.

10

Within the context of the invention, the concern is with the elliptic curve models defined by a quartic equation instead of the Weierstrass cubic equation usually used.

15

The general form of a quartic, in affine coordinates, is given by the equation:

$$20 \quad Y^2 = a_0.X^4 + a_1.X^3 + a_2.X^2 + a_3.X + a_4$$

(F10)

or, in Jacobi projective coordinates, by the equation:

$$25 \quad V^2 = a_0.U^4 + a_1.U^3W + a_2.U^2W^2 + a_3.UW^3 + a_4W^4$$

(F11)

30 knowing that the affine coordinates and the Jacobi projective coordinates of the same point are linked by the relationship:

$$(X, Y) = (U/W, V/W^2)$$

(F12)

5

In a first example embodiment of the invention, any elliptic curve whatsoever is considered, and an operation of the type $P3 = P1 + P2$ is carried out, with $P1, P2$ any two points whatsoever on the elliptic curve. $P2$ can be different from $P1$, equal to $P1$ and/or equal to the neutral O of the curve. The addition operation is carried out in Jacobi projective coordinates.

It is shown that any curve with equation

15

$$Y^2 = X^3 + a.X + b \text{ (Weierstrass equation)}$$

is birationally equivalent to a curve with equation

20

$$Y^2 = b.X^4 + a.X^3 + X$$

(F13)

The equation F13 is ultimately a particular case of the equation F10, with $a0=b, a1=a, a2=0, a3=1, a4=0$.

25

Using the equivalence relationships F12, it is shown that the equation F13 can also be written, in Jacobi projective coordinates:

30

$$V^2 = b.U^4 + a.U^3W + UW^3$$

(F14)

When the scalar multiplication calculation device
 5 is called upon to carry out an addition operation, the
 central processing unit 2 first of all stores in
 calculation registers the coordinates (U1 : V1 : W1)
 and (U2 : V2 : W2) of the points P1, P2 on the elliptic
 curve which are to be added.

10

The central processing unit 2 next calculates the
 coordinates of the point P3 according to the equations:

$$U3 = 2.b.U1^2.U2^2$$

$$+ (aU1.U2 + W1.W2).(U1.W2+W1.U2) + 2V1.V2$$

(F15)

$$V3 = (U1^2.V2+U2^2.V1) * (4b.(U1.W2+U2.W1).W1.W2 - 8b^2.(U1.U2)^2 + a.[(2W1.W2)^2 - (aU1.U2+W1.W2)^2] + (W1^2.V2+W2^2.V1) * [(aU1.U2+W1.W2)^2 - (2aU1.U2)^2 + 4bU1.U2.(W1.U2+U1.W2)] - 4bU1.U2.(U1.W1.V2+U2.W2.V1)(aU1.U2-W1.W2)$$

(F16)

$$W3 = (aU1.U2-W1.W2)^2 - 4bU1.U2(U1.W2+U2.W1)$$

(F17)

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The coordinates (U3 : V3 : W3) of the point P3 are finally stored in registers in the working memory 8, in order to be used elsewhere, for example for the remainder of the ciphering algorithm.

5

It is verified that the formulae F15 to F17 are valid, even in the case where $P1 = P2$ (point doubling) or in the case where $P2 = O$ (0 : 0 : 1) (addition of the neutral).

10

In a second example embodiment of the invention, an elliptic curve having a single point of order two with affine coordinates $(\theta, 0)$ is considered, and an operation of the type $P3 = P1 + P2$ is carried out, with P1, P2 any two points whatsoever on the elliptic curve. P2 can be different from P1, equal to P1 and/or equal to the neutral O of the curve. The addition operation is given in Jacobi projective coordinates.

20

The point of order two satisfying the Weierstrass equation defining the elliptic curve, θ , is defined by the equation:

25

$$\theta^3 + a.\theta + b = 0$$

It is then shown that any curve with equation

$$Y^2 = X^3 + a.X + b \text{ (Weierstrass equation)}$$

30

and having a single point $(\theta, 0)$ of order two is
 birationally equivalent to a curve with equation

$$Y^2 = \varepsilon.X^4 - 2\delta.X^2 + 1$$

(F18)

with:

$$\varepsilon = - (a+3\theta^2/4)/4 \text{ and } \delta = 3\theta/4$$

(F19)

The equation F18 is ultimately a particular case
 of the equation F10, with $a_0=\varepsilon$, $a_1=0$, $a_2=-2\delta$, $a_3=0$,
 $a_4=1$.

Using the equivalence relationships F12, it is
 shown that the equation F18 can also be written, in
 Jacobi projective coordinates:

$$V^2 = \varepsilon.X^4 - 2\delta.U^2X^2 + W^4$$

(F20)

The change from the cubic model $Y^2 = X^3 + aX + b$
 to the quartic model $Y^2 = \varepsilon.X^4 - 2\delta.X^2 + 1$ is performed
 by the following transformations:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Weierstrass | Quartic |
| model | model |
| $(\theta, 0)$ | $\xi \quad (0 : -1 : 1)$ |

$$(X, Y) \quad \xi \quad (2(X-\theta) : (2X+\theta)(X-\theta)^2 - Y^2 : Y)$$

$$5 \quad O \quad \xi \quad (0 : 1 : 1)$$

10 Quartic Weierstrass
 model model

$$(0 : 1 : 1) \quad \xi \quad O$$

$$(0 : -1 : 1) \quad \xi \quad (\theta, 0)$$

$$15 \quad (U : V : W) \quad \xi \quad (2(V+W^2)/U^2 - \theta/2, \\ W(4V+4W^2-3\theta U^2)U^3)$$

20 There are defined for this quartic model the
neutral point $O (0 : 1 : 1)$ and the inverse point of
the point $P (U : V : W)$ by the point $-P (-U : V : W)$.

25 When the exponentiation calculation device is
called upon to carry out an addition operation, the
central processing unit 2 first of all stores in
calculation registers the coordinates $(U1 : V1 : W1)$
and $(U2 : V2 : W2)$ of the points $P1, P2$ on the elliptic
curve which are to be added.

The central processing unit 2 next calculates the coordinates of the point P3 according to the equations:

$$U3 = U1.W1.V2 + V1.U2.W2$$

5 (F21)

$$V3 = [(W1.W2)^2 + \epsilon(U1.U2)^2] \\ * [V1.V2 - 2\delta U1.U2.W1.W2] + 2\epsilon.U1.U2.W1.W2(U1^2W2^2 + W1^2U2^2)$$

10 (F22)

$$W3 = (W1.W2)^2 - \epsilon(U1.U2)^2$$

(F23)

15 The coordinates (U3 : V3 : W3) of the point P3 are finally stored in registers in the working memory 8, in order to be used elsewhere, for example for the remainder of the ciphering algorithm.

20 Here again it is verified that the formulae F21 to F23 are valid, even in the case where P1 = P2 (point doubling) or in the case where P2 = O (addition of the neutral).

25 In the third example embodiment of the invention, a particular case of the second example is considered, in which the elliptic curve has three points of order two and is such that $\epsilon = 1$. Also, an operation of the type $P3 = P1 + P2$ is carried out, with P1, P2 any two

points whatsoever on the elliptic curve. P2 can be different from P1, equal to P1 and/or equal to the neutral O of the curve. The addition operation is given in Jacobi projective coordinates for the model $U^4 - 2\delta.U^2.W^2 + W^4$ corresponding to the affine model $Y^2 = X^4 + 2\delta.X^2 + 1$.

The equation F24 is ultimately a particular case of the most general equation F10, with $a_0 = 1$, $a_1 = 0$, $a_2 = -2\delta$, $a_3 = 0$, $a_4 = 1$.

When the exponentiation calculation device is called upon to carry out an addition operation, the central processing unit 2 first of all stores in calculation registers the coordinates $(U1 : V1 : W1)$ and $(U2 : V2 : W2)$ of the points P1, P2 on the elliptic curve which are to be added.

The central processing unit 2 next calculates the coordinates of the point P3 according to the equations:

$$U3 = U1.W1.V2 + V1.U2.W2$$

(F27)

25

$$V3 = [(W1.W2)^2 + (U1.U2)^2] \cdot [V1.V2 - 2\delta U1.U2.W1.W2] + 2U1.U2.W1.W2 (U1^2 W2^2 + W1^2 U2^2) \quad (F28)$$

$$W3 = (W1.W2)^2 - (U1.U2)^2$$

(F29)

5 The coordinates (U3 : V3 : W3) of the point P3
are finally stored in registers in the working memory
8, in order to be used elsewhere, for example for the
remainder of the ciphering algorithm.

10 Here again it is verified that the formulae F27
to F29 are effective, even in the case where P1 = P2
(point doubling) or in the case where P2 = O (addition
of the neutral).

15 From a practical implementation point of view,
the formulae F27 to F29 can be implemented as follows:

```

r1 p u1.u2

r2 p w1.w2

r3 p r1.r2

r4 p v1.v2

r5 p u1.w1 + v1

r6 p u2.w2 + v2

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20

25

$u3 \leftarrow r5.r6 - r4 - r3$

$w3 \leftarrow (r2 - r1).(r2 + r1)$

5 $r6 \leftarrow \delta \cdot r3$

$r4 \leftarrow r4 - 2.r6$

$r6 \leftarrow (r2 + r1)^2 - 2r3$

10 $r4 \leftarrow r4.r6$

$r6 \leftarrow (u1 + w1).(u2 + w2) - r1 - r2$

15 $r5 \leftarrow r6^2 - 2r3$

$r6 \leftarrow r5.r3$

$v3 \leftarrow r4 + 2.r6$

20

where $u1, v1, w1, u2, v2, w2, u3, v3, w3$ are calculation registers in which the projective coordinates of the points $P1, P2$ and $P3$ are stored, and $r1$ to $r6$ are temporary calculation registers.

25

Thus, according to this embodiment, the coordinates of the point $P3$ are obtained in a time equal to approximately 13 times the time for carrying out a multiplication of the contents of two registers +

one times the time for carrying out a multiplication of the contents of a register by a constant. The time for calculating the coordinates of P3 by means of the formulation according to the invention is thus much
5 shorter than the time for calculating the coordinates of P3 by means of a formulation such as those of the prior art.

It should be noted that this approximation is
10 entirely realistic since the time for carrying out a multiplication of the contents of a register by a constant or a multiplication of the contents of two registers is in practice very much longer than the time for carrying out an addition of the contents of two
15 registers.

This is also true in the case of implementation of the formulae F15-F17 or F21-F23.

20

In a fourth example embodiment of the invention, an elliptic curve having a single point of order two with affine coordinates $(\theta, 0)$ is considered, and an operation of the type $P3 = P1 + P2$ is carried out, with
25 $P1, P2$ any two points whatsoever on the elliptic curve. $P2$ can be different from $P1$, equal to $P1$ and/or equal to the neutral O of the curve.

As was seen in the second example:

30

$$\theta^3 + a.\theta + b = 0$$

The curve with Weierstrass equation

5
$$Y^2 = X^3 + a.X + b$$

and having a single point $(\theta, 0)$ of order two is
 birationally equivalent to a curve with equation

10
$$Y^2 = \epsilon.X^4 - 2\delta.X^2 + 1$$

 (F18)

with:

15
$$\epsilon = -(a+3\theta^2/4)/4 \text{ and } \delta = 3\theta/4$$

 (F19)

In this example, the addition operation is given
 in affine coordinates.

20

When the exponentiation calculation device is
 called upon to carry out an addition operation, the
 central processing unit 2 first of all stores in
 calculation registers the coordinates $(X1, Y1)$ and $(X2,$
 25 $Y2)$ of the points $P1, P2$ on the elliptic curve which
 are to be added.

The central processing unit 2 next calculates the
 coordinates of the point $P3$ according to the equations:

$$X_3 = (X_1.Y_2 + Y_1.X_2) / [1 - \epsilon(X_1.X_2)^2]$$

(F30)

$$Y_3 = \frac{\{ [1 + \epsilon(X_1.X_2)^2] . [Y_1.Y_2 - 2\delta.X_1.X_2] + 2\epsilon.X_1.X_2.(X_1^2 + X_2^2) \}}{[1 - \epsilon(X_1.X_2)^2]}$$

(F31)

10 The coordinates (X_3, Y_3) of the point P_3 are finally stored in registers in the working memory 8, in order to be used elsewhere, for example for the remainder of the ciphering algorithm.

15 Here again it is verified that the formulae F30 to F31 are valid, even in the case where $P_1 = P_2$ (point doubling) or in the case where $P_2 = O$ (addition of the neutral).